

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A network configuration management method for managing a network configuration in such a way that a participation terminal device can directly communicate with another participation terminal device without passing through a management terminal device, wherein a network includes a plurality of communication terminal devices each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminal devices is a the management terminal device, and a communication terminal device which is permitted by the management terminal device to participate in the network is the participation terminal device; the network configuration management method comprising the steps of:

sending from the management terminal device, participation terminal information stored in the management terminal device, wherein the management terminal device includes a function of managing the configuration of the network;

receiving by the participation terminal device other than the management terminal device, the participation terminal information sent from the management terminal device;

judging by the participation terminal device other than the management terminal device, whether or not the participation terminal device can communicate directly with another participation terminal device that is participating in the network without passing through the management terminal device;

sending a communication availability judgment result obtained by the step of judging, from the participation terminal device other than the management terminal device to the management terminal device; and

determining by the management terminal device, a participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network in accordance with the communication availability judgment result, and deleting by the management terminal device, the participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network from the participation terminal information, thereby updating the participation terminal information stored in the management terminal device.

2. (Original) The network configuration management method according to claim 1, wherein, when there is a participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network, the step of updating the participation terminal information includes a process of sending a notice of exclusion for notifying that the participation terminal device that should be excluded is excluded from the network, from the management terminal device to the participation terminal device that should be excluded.

3. (Currently Amended) The network configuration management method according to claim 1, wherein the judging in the step of judging whether or not the participation terminal device can directly communicate with another participation terminal device without passing through the management terminal device, includes

a process of sending data for the communication availability judgment at regular intervals from the participation terminal device other than the management terminal device to another participation terminal device that is participating in the network, and

a process of judging whether or not the participation terminal device that has received the data for communication availability judgment can communicate in accordance with the received data for communication availability judgment.

4. (Original) The network configuration management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing an indication, by the participation terminal device that has been excluded from the network, for notifying a user of a fact that the participation terminal device has been excluded from the network.

5. (Original) The network configuration management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing an indication, by the management terminal device, for notifying a user of a fact that the participation terminal device is excluded from the network.

6. (Currently Amended) A management communication terminal device for managing a network configuration in such a way that a participation terminal device can directly communicate with another participation terminal device without passing through the management communication terminal device, wherein a network includes a plurality of communication terminal devices each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminal devices is the management communication terminal device, and a communication terminal device which is permitted by the management communication terminal device to participate in the network is the participation terminal device; the management communication terminal device comprising:

- a communication section which performs communication;

- a storage section which stores participation terminal information regarding the participation terminal device which is permitted to participate in the network; and

- a control section;

- wherein the control section controls so as to perform and repeat

- a process of sending the participation terminal information stored in the storage section from the communication section;

- a process of receiving communication availability judgment result, after receiving the sent participation terminal information, from a participation terminal device which sends the communication availability judgment result indicating whether or not direct communication can be performed with another participation terminal device that is participating in the network, another participation terminal device being other than the management communication terminal device; and

- a process of determining a participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network in accordance with the communication availability judgment result, and deleting the participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network from the participation terminal information, thereby updating the participation terminal information.

7. (Original) The management communication terminal device according to claim 6, wherein, when the participation terminal information is updated, if there is a participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network, the management

communication terminal device sends a notice of exclusion for notifying the participation terminal device that should be excluded from the network of a fact that the participation terminal device that should be excluded is excluded from the network.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal device other than a management terminal device, wherein the management terminal device includes a function of managing the configuration of a network, and wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminal devices each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminal devices is the management terminal device, and a communication terminal device which is permitted by the management terminal device to participate in the network is the participation terminal device; the communication terminal device comprising:

- a communication section which performs communication;

- a storage section which stores the participation terminal information regarding the participation terminal device which is permitted to participate in the network and communication availability judgment result; and

- a control section;

- wherein the control section controls so as to perform and repeat

- a process of judging whether direct communication with another participation terminal device that is participating in the network without passing through the management communication terminal device can be performed or not; and

- a process of sending the communication availability judgment result obtained by the process of judging to the management terminal device.

9. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 8, wherein the judgment at the process of judging whether the communication with the participation terminal device can be performed or not, includes:

- a process of sending data for the communication availability judgment at regular intervals from the participation terminal device other than the management terminal device to another participation terminal device that is participating in the network, and

- a process of judging whether or not the participation terminal device other than the

management terminal device that has received the data for communication availability judgment can communicate in accordance with the received data for communication availability judgment.

10. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 8, wherein the participation terminal device excluded from the network comprises a display section, and

the display section displays so as to notify a user that the own communication terminal device has been excluded from the network.

11. (Currently Amended) A network band management method used in a network that comprises a plurality of communication terminals including a single management terminal and a plurality of managed terminals, wherein the single management terminal includes a function of managing a configuration of the network, the plurality of the communication terminals in the network directly communicating with each other without passing through the management terminal; the network band management method comprising the steps of:

giving notice of sending information which contains information regarding band for data transmission being used by the plurality of managed communication terminals, from the plurality of the managed terminals to the management terminal;

generating by the management terminal, band-in-use information regarding a band being used in the network in accordance with the notified sending information; and

giving notice of the generated band-in-use information from the management terminal to the plurality of the managed terminals.

12. (Original) The network band management method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of determining by the communication terminal whether a predetermined amount of data can be sent or not in accordance with the band-in-use information which is notified in the step of giving notice of the band-in-use information.

13. (Original) The network band management method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of notifying a user of a result of the determination whether the predetermined amount of data can be sent or not, by the communication terminal.

14. (Original) The network band management method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of converting by the communication terminal, the predetermined amount of data to be within the available communication band in accordance with the band-in-use information in order to send the converted data, when the predetermined amount of data is determined not to be able to be sent.

15. (Original) The network band management method according to claim 11, wherein the step of giving notice of the band-in-use information is performed in accordance with a notification request from the managed terminal to the management terminal.

16. (Currently Amended) A network participation method for participating in a network by a participation requesting terminal, wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is a management terminal, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the network participation method comprising the steps of:

receiving participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network, the participation terminal information being sent from the management terminal at regular intervals, wherein the management terminal includes a function of managing a configuration of the network;

judging communication availability judgment indicating whether direct communication with the communication terminals that are participating in the network without passing through the management terminal can be performed and available transmission rates in accordance with the participation terminal information;

sending a participation request which contains a result of the transmission rate judgment to the management terminal;

receiving a participation permissibility judgment result indicating whether the participation requesting terminal can participate in the network or not, the participation permissibility judgment result being sent from the management terminal, as a result of the participation request sending; and

determining network participation permissibility in accordance with the received participation permissibility judgment result.

17. (Original) The network participation method according to claim 16, wherein the step of receiving the participation permissibility judgment result includes the step of notifying a user that the communication terminal has failed to participate in the network, when the participation requesting terminal receives a judgment result indicating not to be able to participate in the network.

18. (Currently Amended) A network configuration management method for managing a network configuration by a management terminal, wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the network configuration management method comprising the steps of:

giving notice of participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network, to the communication terminal in the network, by broadcasting at regular intervals;

receiving a participation request being sent from a participation requesting terminal requesting to newly participate in the network, the participation request which contains communication availability information indicating whether direct communication with the communication terminals that is participating in the network can be performed or not and a result of available transmission rate judgment;

judging whether participation of the participation requesting terminal in the network can be permitted or not in accordance with the received participation request;

sending a network participation permissibility judgment result regarding the participation of the participation requesting terminal to the participation requesting terminal;

updating the participation terminal information in accordance with the participation permissibility judgment, if the participation requesting terminal can participate in the network; and

sending the participation terminal information to the communication terminal that is participating in the network, if the participation terminal information is updated.

19. (Currently Amended) A network configuration management method for managing a network configuration, wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal that includes a function of managing the configuration of the network, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the network configuration management method comprising the steps of:

receiving by a certain communication terminal, participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network, the participation terminal information being sent from the management terminal at regular intervals, the certain communication terminal being one of the plurality of communication terminals forming the network, the certain communication terminal being other than the management terminal;

judging by the certain communication terminal other than the management terminal, communication availability indicating whether direct communication with the communication terminals that are participating in the network can be performed or not and available transmission rates in accordance with the participation terminal information;

sending by the certain communication terminal other than the management terminal, a result of the transmission rate judgment to the management terminal as transmission rate judgment information; and

excluding by the certain communication terminal other than the management terminal, the certain communication terminal from the network in accordance with a notice of exclusion

being sent from the management terminal, if the certain communication terminal cannot communicate with the other communication terminals that are participating in the network at a predetermined transmission rate or more, as a result of the transmission rate judgment.

20. (Original) A network configuration management method according to claim 19, wherein the step of excluding includes the steps of:

confirming whether the received participation terminal information from the management terminal contains the terminal information, after the sending of the transmission rate judgment information; and

judging that the certain communication terminal is participating in the network if the participation terminal information contains information of the certain communication terminal, and judging that the certain communication terminal has been excluded from the network if the participation terminal information does not contain the information of the certain communication terminal.

21. (Original) The network configuration management method according to claim 19, wherein the excluding step includes the step of notifying a user of the exclusion of the certain communication terminal from the network, when the certain communication terminal is judged that should be excluded from the network.

22. (Currently Amended) A network configuration management method for managing a network configuration by a management terminal, wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the network configuration management method comprising the steps of:

giving notice of participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network, to the communication terminal in the network, by broadcasting at regular intervals;

receiving a confirmation result of available transmission rates for communication with each of the communication terminals by the communication terminal that is participating in the network; and

determining whether the communication terminal can participate in the network or not in accordance with the received transmission rate information, and deleting terminal information of a communication terminal being determined not to be able to participate in from the participation terminal information, thereby excluding the communication terminal from the network.

23. (Original) The network configuration management method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the exclusion of the communication terminal from the network, when the communication terminal that is participating in the network was excluded.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal device requesting to participate in a network, wherein the network includes a plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is a management terminal that includes a function of managing a configuration of the network, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the communication terminal device comprising:

a participation terminal information receiving means for receiving participation terminal information of the communication terminals that are participating in the network, the participation terminal information being sent from the management terminal at regular intervals;

a transmission rate judging means for judging communication availability indicating whether or not direct communication with the communication terminal that is participating in the network can be performed and available transmission rates in accordance with the participation terminal information;

a participation request sending means for sending a participation request which contains a result of the transmission rate judgment to the management terminal;

a participation judgment result receiving means for receiving a result of participation

permissibility judgment indicating whether the participation requesting terminal can participate in the network or not, the participation permissibility judgment result being sent from the management terminal as a result of the participation request sending; and

a determining means for determining the network participation permissibility in accordance with the received participation judgment result.

25. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 24, further comprising a means for notifying a user that the communication terminal has failed to participate in the network, when the participation judgment result receiving means receives a judgment result indicating that the own communication terminal cannot participate in the network.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal device as a management terminal which is one of a plurality of communication terminals forming a network, wherein the network includes the plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal that includes a function of managing a configuration of the network, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the communication terminal device comprising:

a participation terminal information notifying means for giving notice of participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network to the communication terminals that are participating in the network by broadcasting at regular intervals;

a participation request receiving means for receiving communication availability information indicating whether direct communication with the communication terminal that is participating in the network can be performed or not and a participation request which contains an available transmission rate judgment result, being sent from a participation requesting terminal which offers to newly participate in the network;

a participation request judging means for judging the network participation permissibility of the participation requesting terminal in accordance with the received

participation request;

a participation request judgment result sending means for sending a participation permissibility judgment result whether the participation requesting terminal can participate in the network or not, to the participation requesting terminal;

a participation terminal information updating means for updating the participation terminal information, when the participation requesting terminal is judged to be able to participate in the network, in accordance with the participation permissibility judgment; and

a sending means for sending the participation terminal information to the communication terminal that is participating in the network, when the participation terminal information is updated.

27. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal device other than a management terminal, which is one of a plurality of communication terminals forming a network, wherein the network includes the plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal that includes a function of managing a configuration of the network, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the own communication terminal device comprising:

a participation terminal information receiving means for receiving participation terminal information of a communication terminal that is participating in the network, the participation terminal information which is sent from the management terminal at regular intervals;

a transmission rate judging means for judging communication availability judgment indicating whether direct communication with the communication terminals that are participating in the network can be performed or not and available transmission rates for communication, in accordance with the participation terminal information;

a transmission rate judgment information sending means for sending to the management terminal the transmission rate judgment result as transmission rate judgment information; and

an excluding means for excluding the own communication terminal device from the network in accordance with a notice of exclusion which is sent from the management terminal,

as a result of the transmission rate judgment, when the communication terminal device fails to communicate with the communication terminal that is participating in the network at a predetermined transmission rate or more.

28. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 27, wherein when the communication terminal device excludes the own communication terminal from the network, after sending the transmission rate judgment information, the communication terminal device confirms whether the participation terminal information which is received from the management terminal contains the own communication terminal information, judges that the own communication terminal is participating in the network if the participation terminal information contains the own communication terminal information, and judges that the own communication terminal is excluded from the network if the participation terminal information does not contain the own communication terminal information.

29. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 27, further comprising a means for notifying a user of the exclusion of the communication terminal from the network, when the own communication terminal is judged that should be excluded from the network by the network exclusion means.

30. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal device as a management terminal which is one of a plurality of communication terminals forming a network, wherein the network includes the plurality of communication terminals each having a unique terminal identifier, one of the plurality of communication terminals is the management terminal that includes a function of managing a configuration of the network, and the communication terminals that are participating in the network can directly communicate with each other without passing through the management terminal and can acquire available transmission rates of each other; the communication terminal device comprising:

a participation terminal information notifying means for giving notice of participation terminal information of the communication terminal that is participating in the network, to the communication terminal that is participating in the network by broadcasting at regular intervals;

a transmission rate judgment information receiving means for receiving a confirmation result of available transmission rates for direct communication between the communication terminal that is participating in the network and each of the communication terminals; and

determining whether the communication terminal can participate in the network or not in accordance with the received transmission rate information in accordance with the transmission rate judgment information received at the transmission rate judgment information receiving means, and deleting terminal information of a communication terminal being determined not to be able to participate in from the participation terminal information, thereby excluding the communication terminal from the network.

31. (Original) The communication terminal device according to claim 30, further comprising a means for notifying a user that the communication terminal has been excluded from the network, when the communication terminal that is participating in the network was excluded from the network by the network exclusion means.